BEAST TAMERS.

MAGES CAPABLE OF HARNESSING THE UNIQUE ABILITY INHERITED FROM A MANA BEAST.

THE FIRST STAGE, KNOWN AS THE *ACQUIRE PHASE*,

IS WHEN THE BEAST TAMER IS ABLE TO BORROW THEIR BEAST'S INHERENT STRENGTHS.

BUT IT'S ONLY AT THE SECOND STAGE, THE *INTEGRATE* PHASE,

WHEN THE MAGE CAN TRULY UTILIZE THEIR BEAST'S UNIQUE ABILITY AND CHARACTERISTICS.

AND
FOR VIRION,

WHO HAD ONLY
UNLOCKED THIS
SECOND STAGE AFTER
DECADES OF STUDYING
HIS BEAST WILL,

HE WAS NOW
ABLE TO UTILIZE
THE DEADLY PROWESS
OF A *SHADOW PANTHER.*

NOW, ARTHUR.

PAY ATTENTION WHILE I SNEAK UP BEHIND YOU.

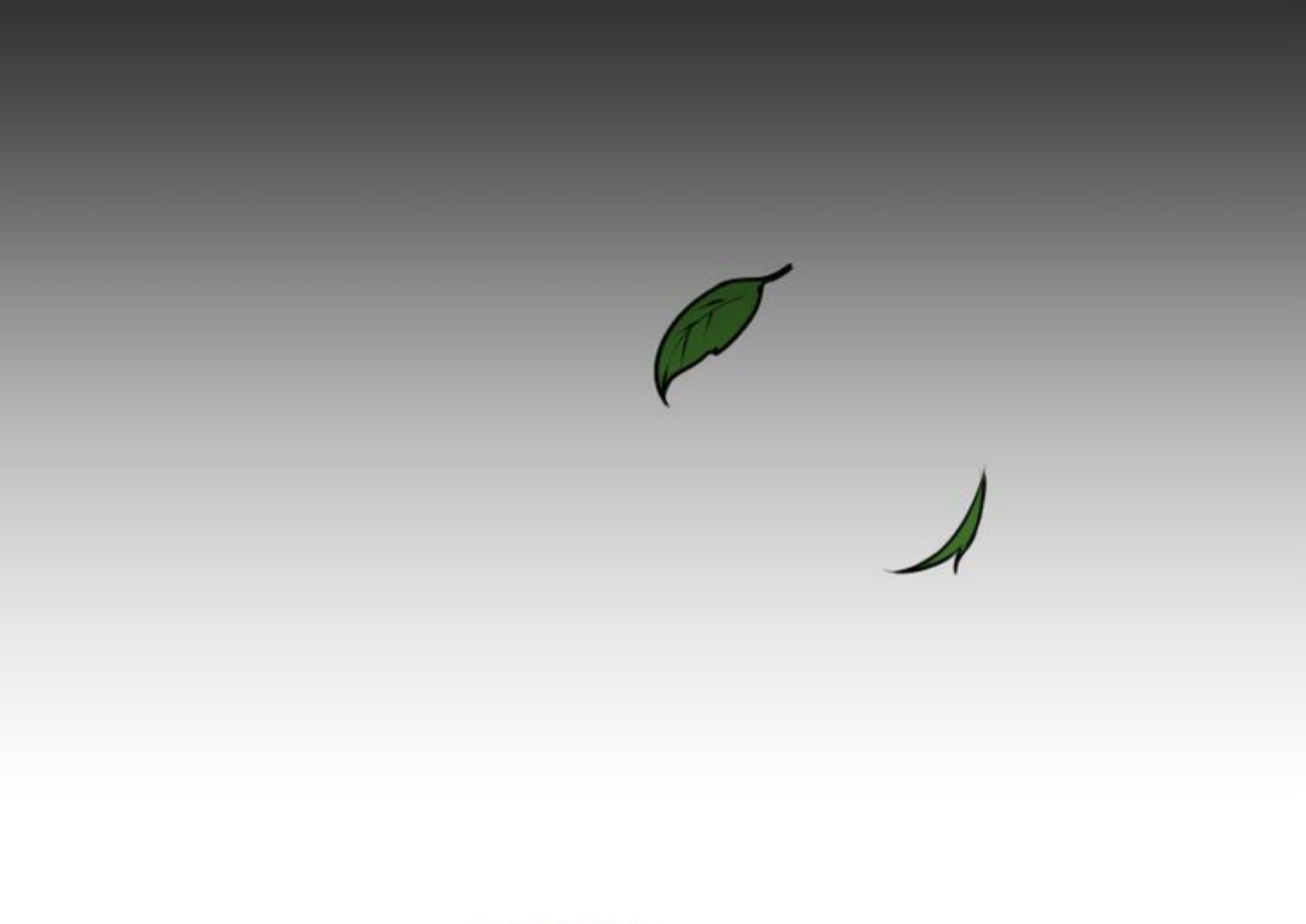
TCH

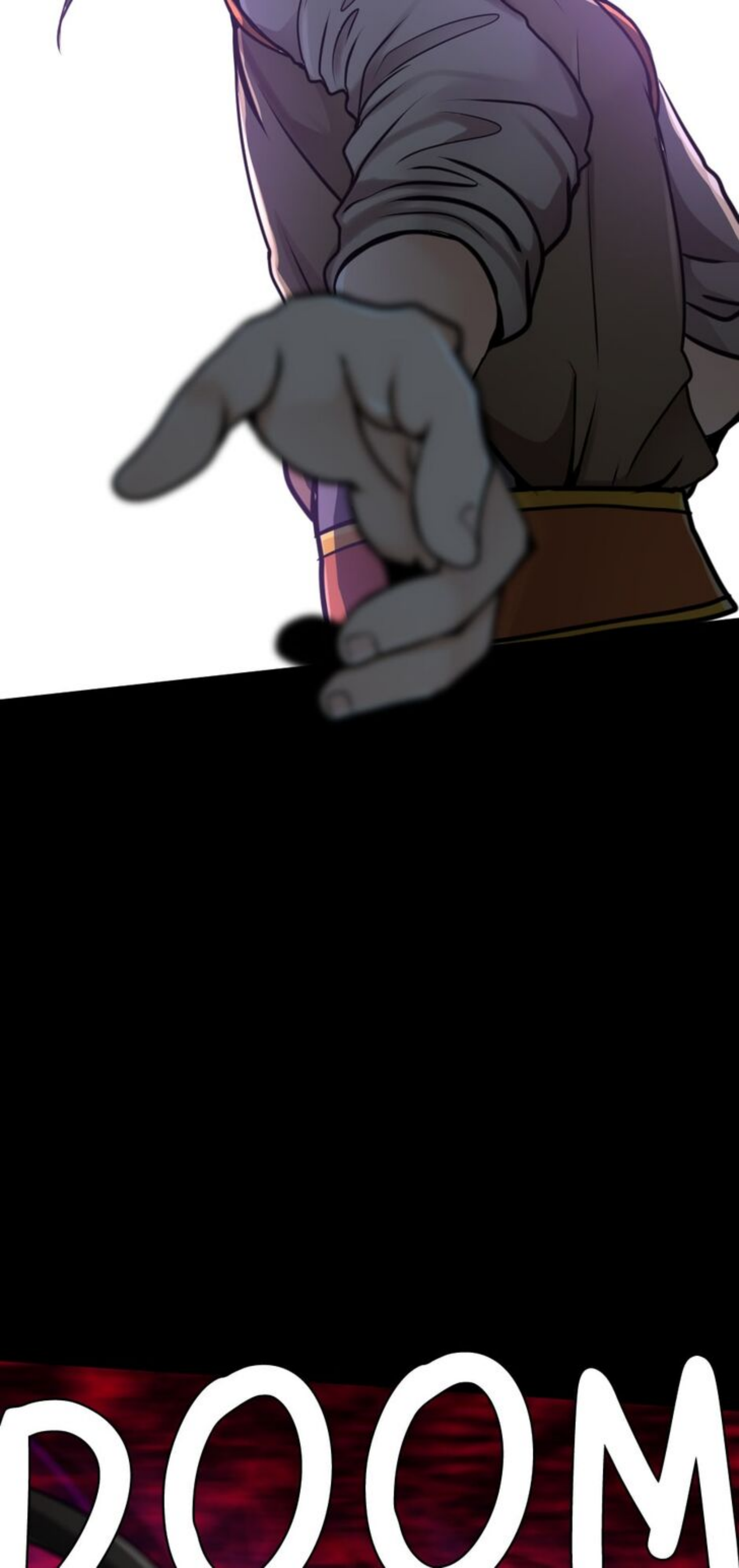
IS HE SAYING HE CAN SNEAK UP ON ME EVEN AFTER WARNING ME?

FWOOSH

FAST!

TAP




BOOM

GULP

I SURRENDER.

I CAN'T EVEN REACT TO YOUR SPEED AT THIS LEVEL AND FRANKLY,

THAT FORM IS TRAUMA-INDUCING.

SO
I'VE BEEN
TOLD.

IT'S NOT WITHOUT ITS FLAWS, THOUGH.

USING THE INTEGRATE PHASE STILL TAKES A BIT OUT OF ME.

YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE ONE THING,

BUT EVEN WHEN YOU WERE BEHIND ME, I COULDN'T FEEL YOUR PRESENCE.

MHMM.

SHADOW PANTHERS ARE ABLE TO INSTINCTUALLY MANIPULATE WIND AND SOUND TO ACHIEVE THIS EFFECT.

I THINK I'VE BULLIED YOU ENOUGH.

WHAT SAY WE ACTUALLY START TRAINING?

THE BEGINNING AFTER THE END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

ART BY
FUYUKI23

PRESENTED BY
TAPAS MEDIA

QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
GABRIELLE LUU & YOSSY

ASSISTANTS
COLORING/PLOWPLO
3D BACKGROUND/HAMUTAQ

DAYS QUICKLY
PASSED FOR ME,
COMPLETELY IMMERSED
IN TRAINING.

THROUGH VIRION'S
GUIDANCE AND MY OWN
INSIGHTS, I WAS ABLE TO
ACCESS THE FIRST STAGE
OF MY DRAGON WILL.

HE HAD ALSO TAUGHT ME TO CONCEAL THE PRESENCE OF MY BEAST WILL IN FRONT OF OTHER MAGES.

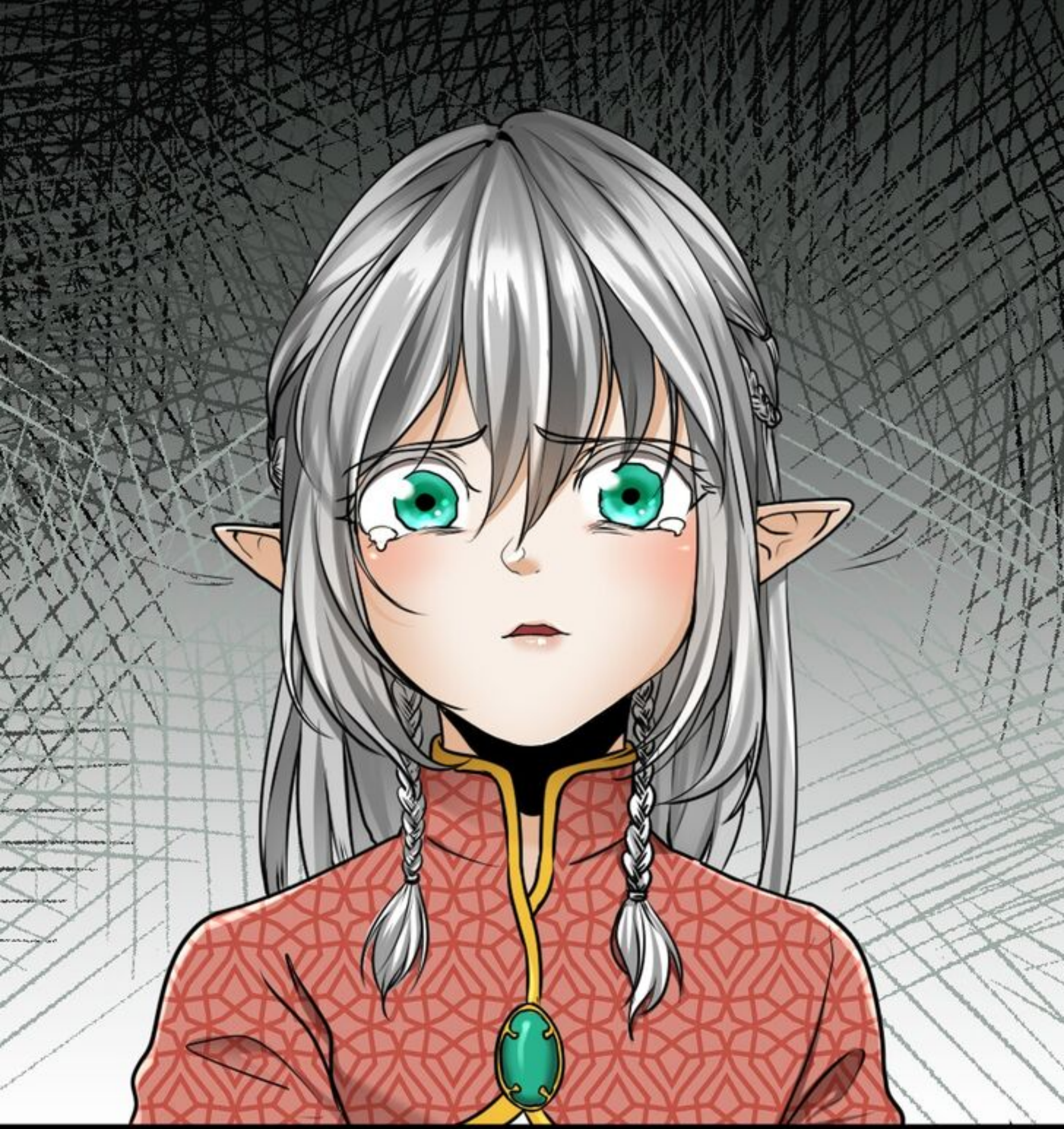
IF I WASN'T STRENGTHENING MY MANA CORE OR STUDYING SYLVIA'S DRAGON WILL,

I WAS SPARRING AGAINST VIRION.

LUCKILY,
THE ASSIMILATION
PROCESS ALLOWED
MY BODY TO KEEP UP WITH
CONSTANT TRAINING AND
CONDITIONING.

AND ON MY
DOWNTIME, I SPENT
AS MUCH TIME AS I COULD
"EMBRACING THE JOYS AND
INNOCENCE OF CHILDHOOD"
LIKE SYLVIA HAD WISHED
FOR ME,

UNTIL THE
DAY OF DEPARTURE
FINALLY CAME...

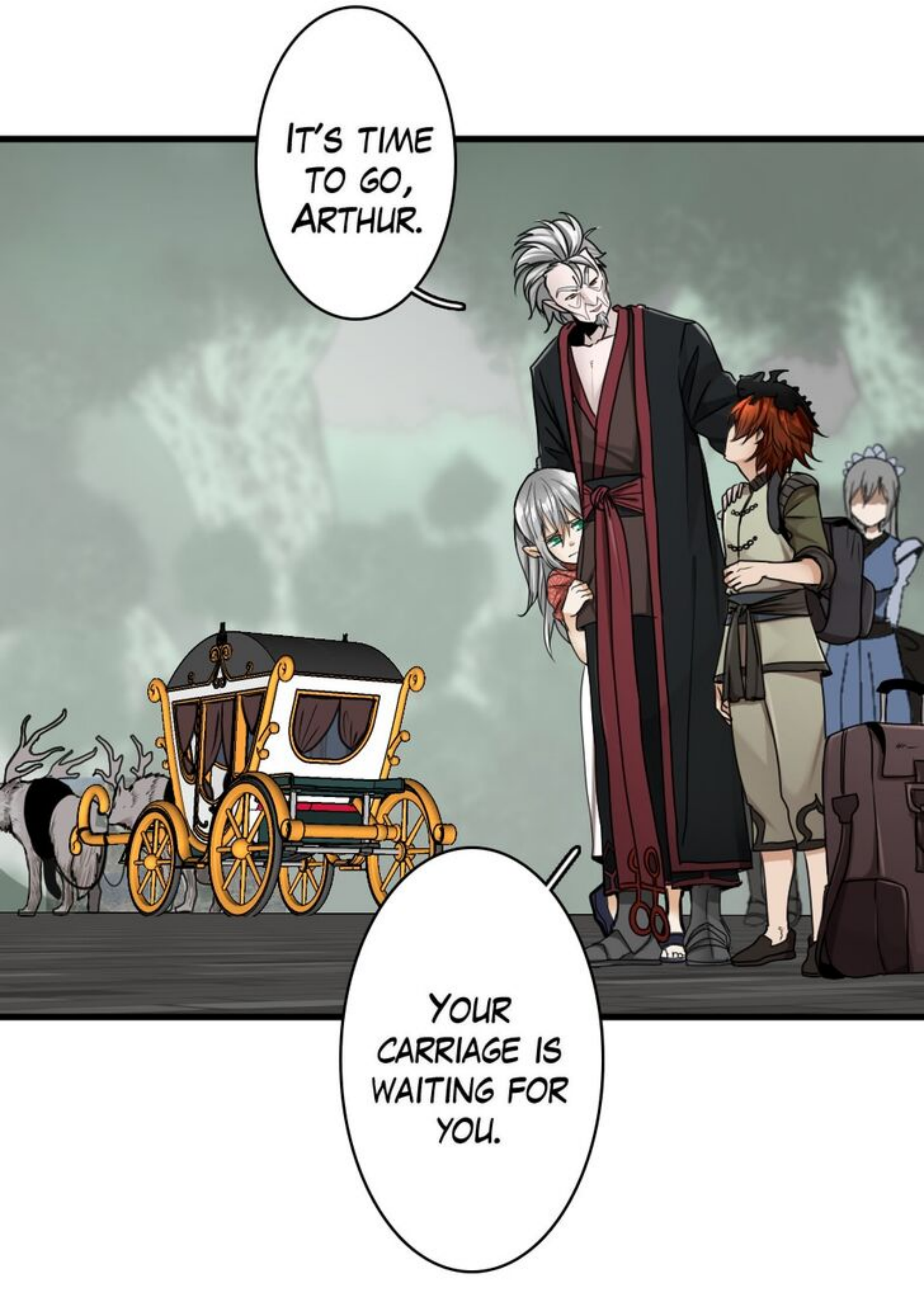


SPENDING EVERY DAY TOGETHER THESE LAST FEW YEARS MADE BREAKING THE NEWS OF MY APPROACHING DEPARTURE THAT MUCH HARDER ON TESS.

LIKE I THOUGHT.

GRANDMA SYLVIA'S FEATHER WORKS WELL AT HIDING THE PRESENCE OF SYLVIE'S MARK.

TAP


IT'S TIME TO GO, ARTHUR.
YOUR CARRIAGE IS WAITING FOR YOU.

HOLD ONTO THIS.

IT'S ADORNED WITH THE ERALITH HOUSE CREST AND IT'LL HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE FOREST.

THANKS, GRAMPS.

OR,

YOU CAN ALWAYS JUST FIND ANOTHER PRINCESS TO LEAD YOU BACK.

GRANDPA!

PULL

OUCH!
IT WAS A JOKE,
LITTLE ONE!
JUST A JOKE!

WE'LL
SEE EACH
OTHER AGAIN
SOON.

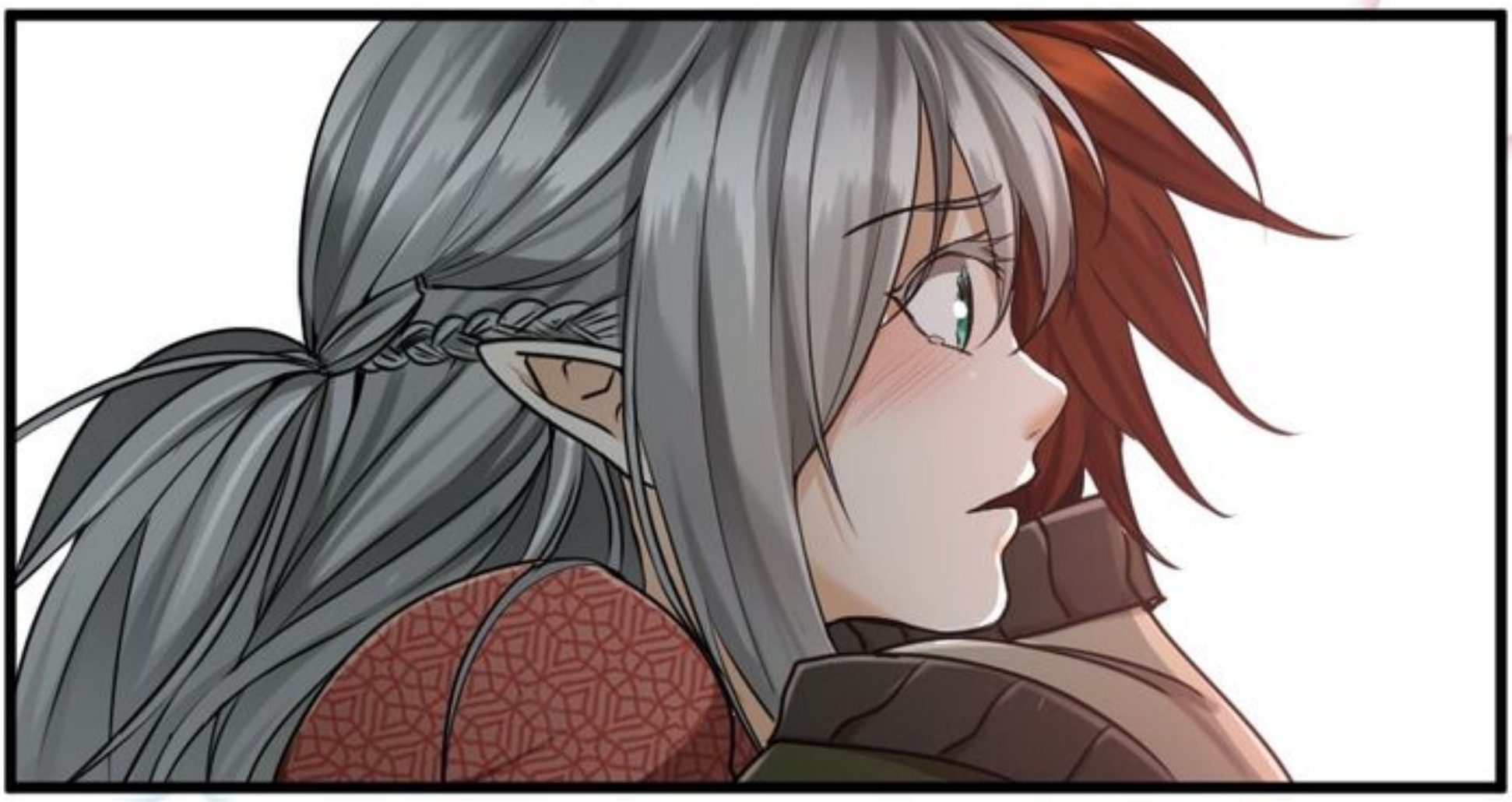
RUB

RUB

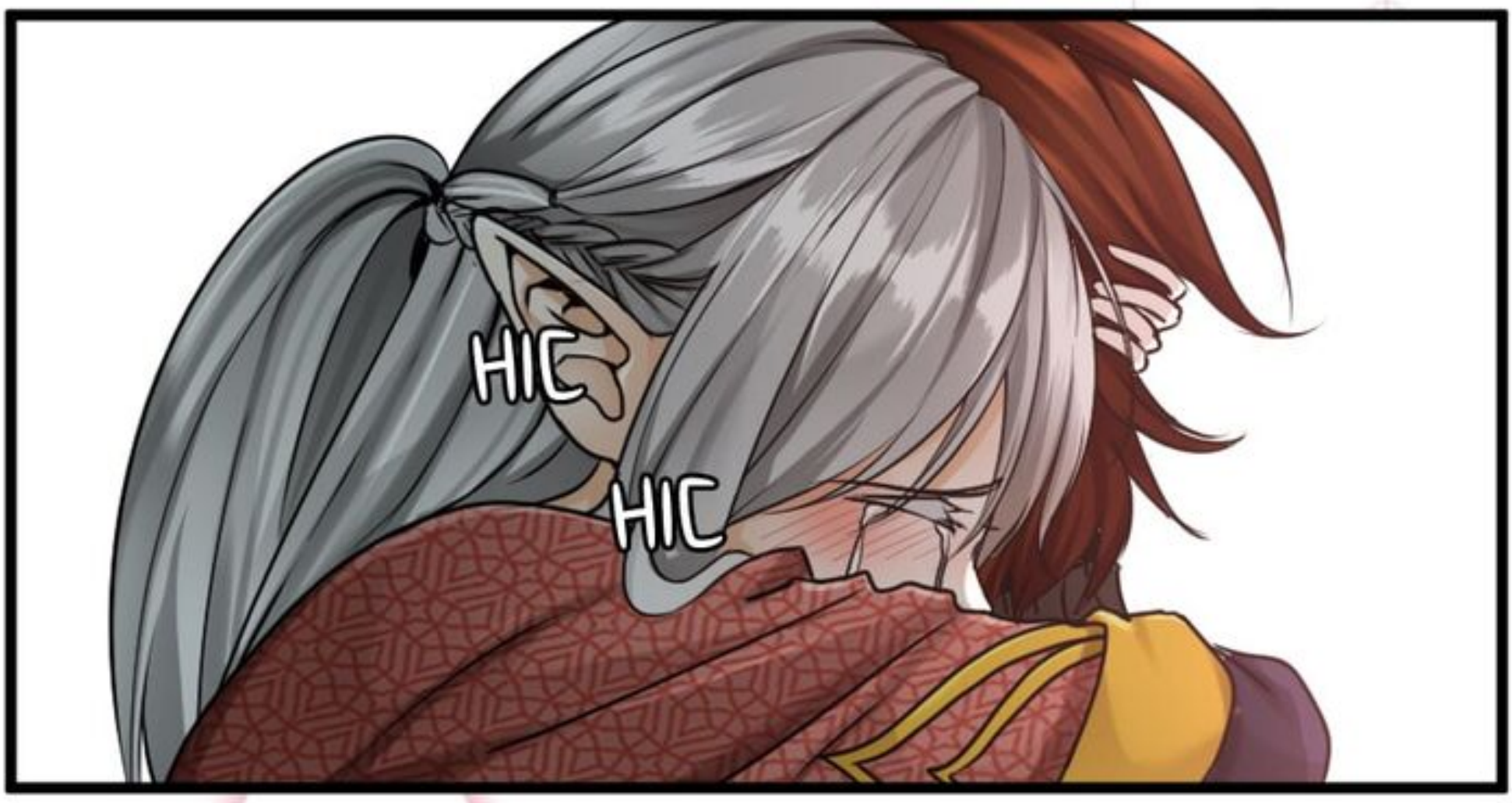
WITH GRAMPS TEACHING YOU,

I EXPECT YOU TO BE STRONGER THAN ME THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.

I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, TESS. STAY SAFE.



HIF



I'M GOING TO MISS YOU TOO, ART!

WELL, LOOK WHO IT IS!

IF IT ISN'T ARTHUR, THE HUMAN BRAT.

DID YOU

FINALLY GET KICKED OUT OF THE KINGDOM?

...WHO ARE YOU?

I'M THE NOBLE THAT YOU BEAT UNFAIRLY BY DEFYING THE CUSTOMS OF THE DUEL!!

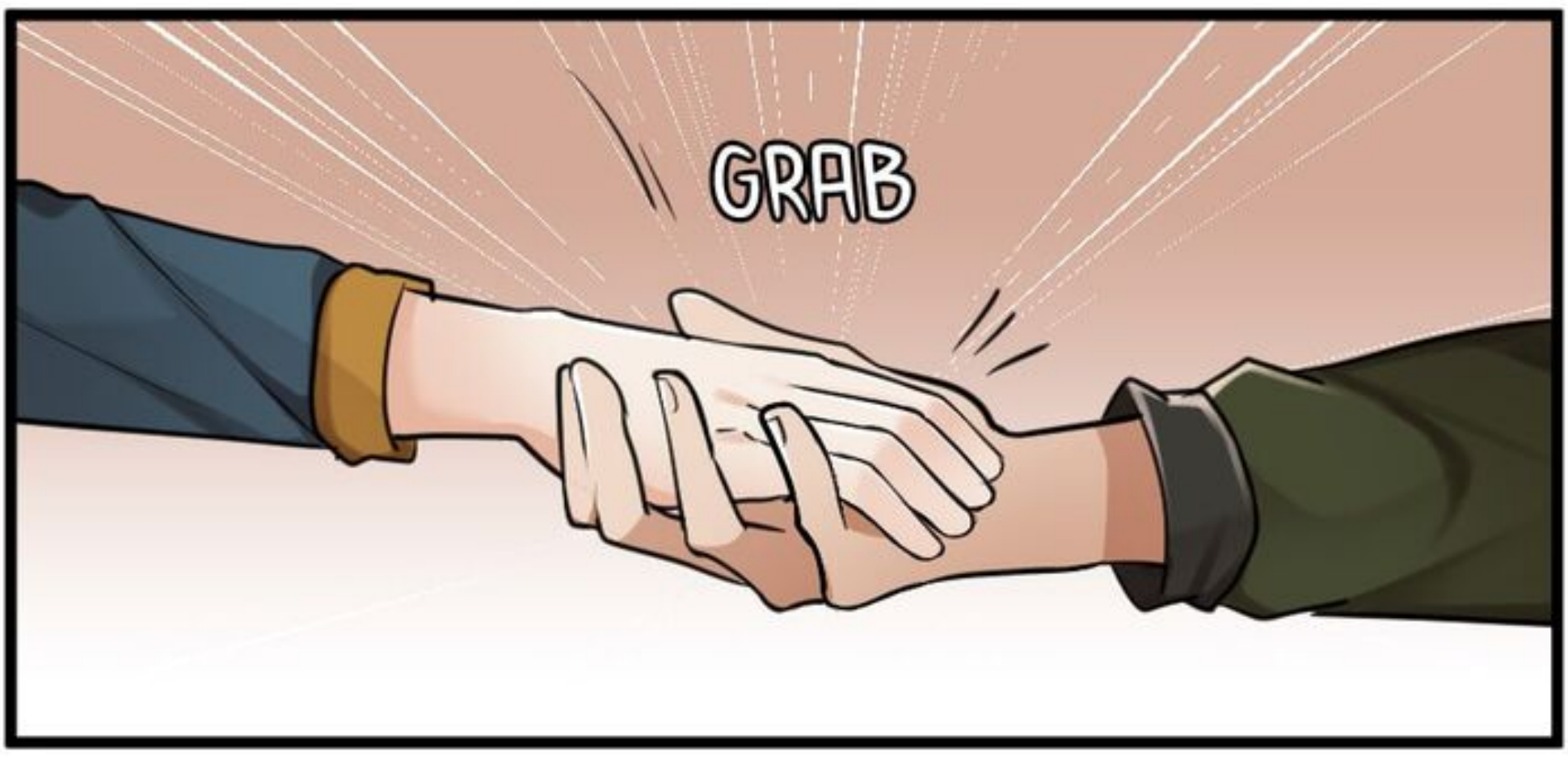
EVERYBODY BUT A FOOLISH HUMAN BUMPKIN LIKE YOU KNOWS A TRUE DUEL IS MEANT TO BE A DEMONSTRATION OF MAGIC,

AND THE CHALLENGER ALWAYS STRIKES FIRST!

AH!

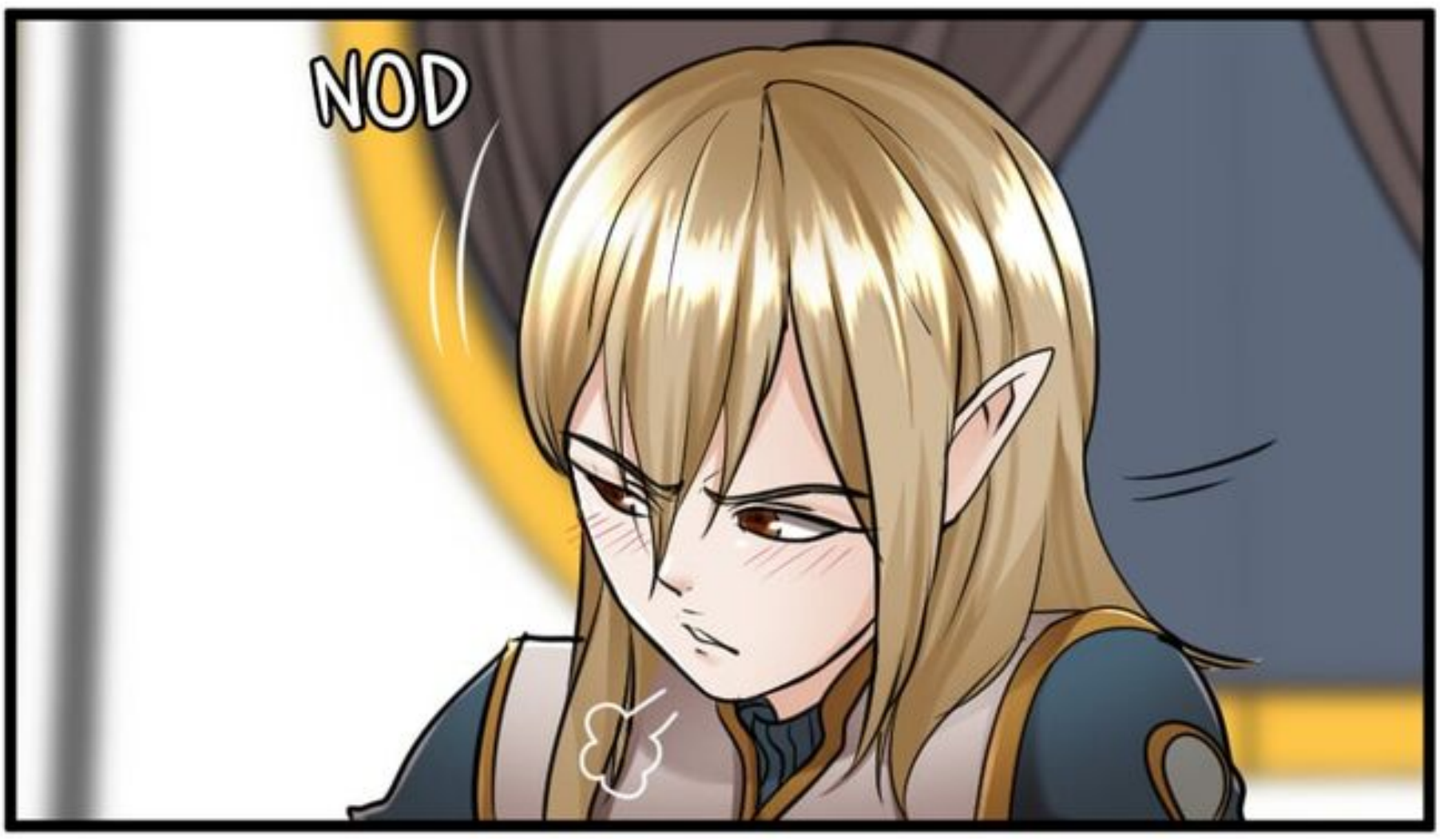
IVYSAUR, RIGHT?

I AM FEYRITH IVSAAR III, HEIR TO THE NOBLE IVSAAR FAMILY! I MAY HAVE BEEN DEFEATED UNDERHANDEDLY WHILE I WAS A NAIVE CHILD, BUT IF WE WERE TO FIGHT NOW--


GRAB

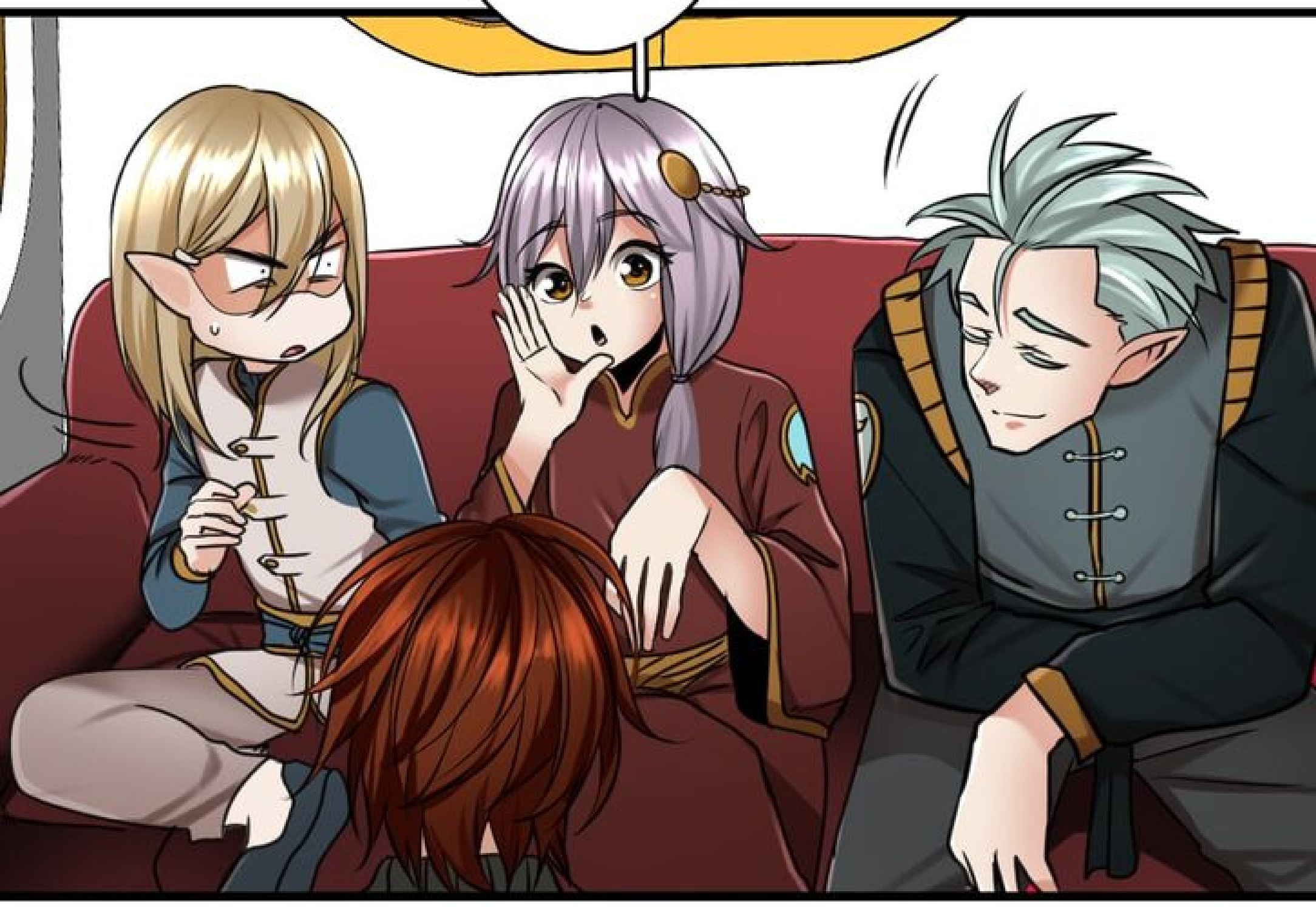
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

SORRY FOR BULLYING YOU BACK THEN.

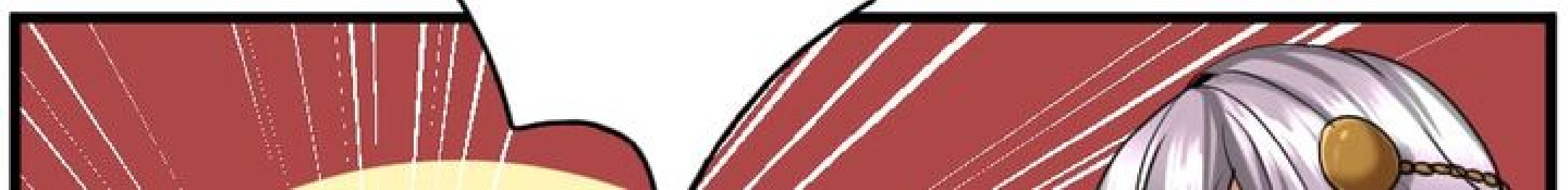


YOU CAN JUST CALL HIM FEYFEY,

LIKE WE ALL DO.

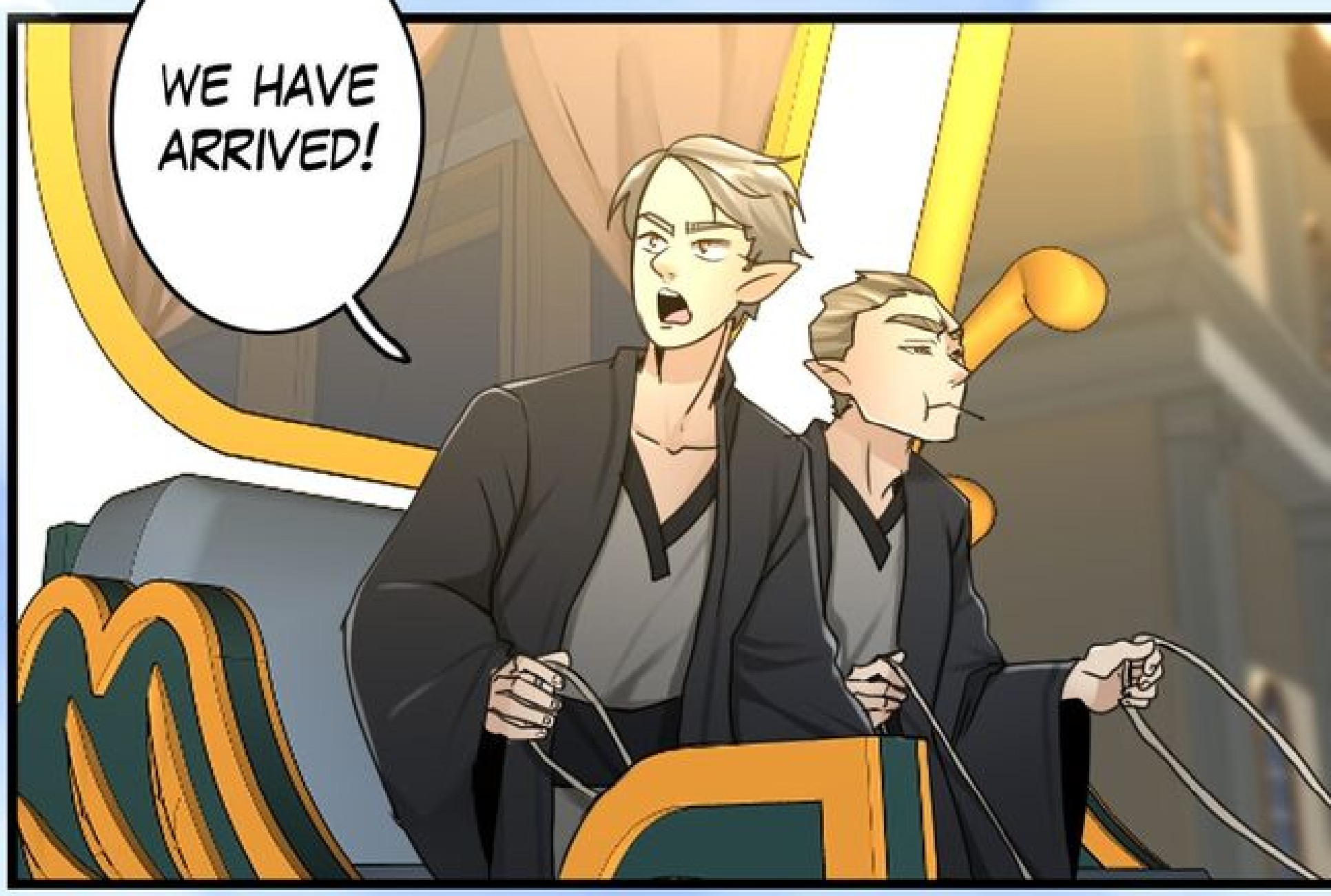


D-D-DON'T TELL HIM THAT!!



ZZT
ZZT

ZZT
ZZT


WE HAVE ARRIVED!

WE'RE FINALLY HERE!

HUM

HUM

THIS IS WHERE MOM AND DAD ARE!

THE FLOATING CITY OF XYRUS!

KEEP UP WITH US CREATORS ON INSTAGRAM!

@turtleme93

@fuyuki23